(c) The Government has asked the concerned State Governments to take the following steps under Ganga Action Plan Phase-II.

(i) State Governments have been asked to take advance action for land acquisition wherever applicable after which only the related schemes be approved. Release of Central grants and its utilisation by the State Government is monitored more vigorously to minimise instances of diversion of funds.

(ii) Release of Central grants under the second phase of Ganga Action Plan to Bihar was withheld for some time till a firm commitment from the State Government was available for providing adequate funds for operation and maintenance of the assets. The matter is also being pursued with the State Government of U.P. for adequate provision of funds for operation and maintenance of assets. Operation and maintenance of assets in West Bengal is generally satisfactory.

(iii) The State Governments have been asked to ensure continuous supply of electricity for assets through dedicated feeders wherever required.

(iv) To address the problem of microbial pollution, it has been decided to adopt land based technologies for sewage treatment wherever feasible and to utilise the treated wastewater for irrigation purposes.

Poaching of Wild Animals

†2194. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large scale poaching of elephants, lions and chittals is taking place in most of the forests and sanctuaries;

(b) whether this poaching is taking place in collusion with the forests officers; and

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

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(c) if so whether Government would involve environmentalists in management, for protection of these forests and animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Instances of poaching of wild animals including Elephants, Lions and Cheetals come to the notice of the Government from time to time.

(b) There is no conclusive evidence of collusion of forest officers in poaching.

(c) Cooperation and active participation of specialists and NGO's in the protection of Forests and Wildlife is part of the management policy of the Government.

Death of Peacocks and Tigers

2195. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports in newspapers regarding death of peackock, tigers and other animals in the country during the last six months;

(b) if so, whether Government have decided to review the Wild-Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, so as to carry comprehensive amendments to ensure severe punishment to those responsible for death of these animals; and

(c) if so, the details of measures worked out by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) 48 peacocks have died because of consumption of pesticide treated bajra seeds. The Wildlife and Environment (Protection) Acts do not have any relevant provision to deal with such situations. The death of 13 tigers at Nandankanan was because of infectious disease i.e. tripanosomiasis. The issue does not